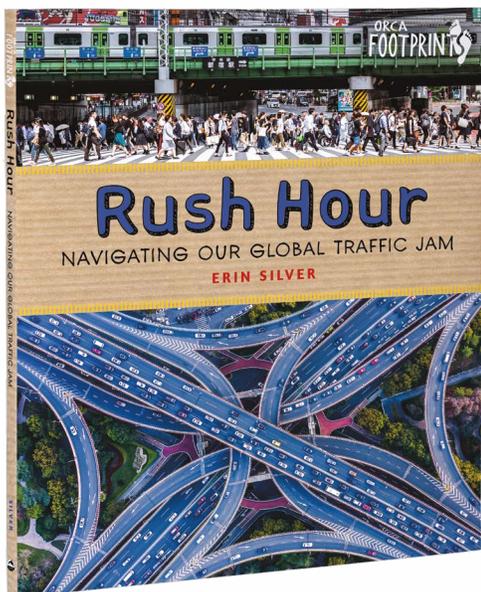


DISCUSSION GUIDE

TRAFFIC IS FRUSTRATING AND IT'S HURTING THE PLANET.



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Transportation is the leading cause of pollution in the United States and the second leading cause in Canada. Even though kids can't drive, they can change their habits and influence the habits of others. They can make more sustainable choices—choices that are healthier for the planet. *Rush Hour* looks at how traffic began and examines traffic in places around the world. The book also looks at how experts keep traffic flowing and what solutions there are for a more sustainable future. Finally, *Rush Hour* inspires and empowers readers with ideas for how they can help address climate change starting today.

This guide is intended to help teachers, librarians and parents “navigate” a discussion of this book.

CHAPTER 1: COLLISION COURSE

1. Have you ever been stuck in a traffic jam? When you look out your window, what do you see? How does it make you feel?
2. How has transportation changed over time? If you were born in the 1800s, how would you have gotten around?
3. What are some changes that took place after the invention of cars?
4. Why is traffic bad for our health? What impact does it have on the planet?
5. Which types of transportation pollute the most? Why do you think cars like SUVs have a bigger impact?

CHAPTER 2: GO WITH THE FLOW

1. What is idling and why does it “get you nowhere?”
2. Why are experts trying to improve the flow of traffic?
3. Of all the ways mentioned in the book, from carpooling to car-sharing, which do you use with your family?
4. Why do some people like to live in a car-free neighborhood or a 20-minute neighborhood?
5. Why is density a good way to fight traffic congestion and pollution?

CHAPTER 3: DRIVING INTO THE FUTURE

1. If you were planning the future of transportation, what would you create?
2. Would you want to ride in a self-driving car? Why or why not?
3. What are the pros of electric vehicles? What might be some cons? (Can you think of some cons not mentioned in the book?)
4. Think back to the beginning of COVID. Why were there less cars on the road? What impact did it have on the planet?

CHAPTER 4: HOW KIDS CAN HELP DRIVE CHANGE

1. There are lots of ways kids can help reduce traffic congestion and get around more sustainably. Which ones are your favorite?
2. Can you think of any habits you can change at school or at home so you can be healthier?
3. Does your school do a good job of managing idling and encouraging people to walk, carpool or bike to school? If your principal put out a suggestion box, what suggestions would you make?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Erin Silver is a children's author and freelance writer with 20 years of professional industry experience. Her books include *Just Watch Me*, *What Kids Did: Stories of Kindness and Invention in the Time of COVID-19* and *Proud to Play: Canadian LGBTQ+ Athletes Who Made History*. Erin's work has appeared in everything from *Good Housekeeping* to the *Globe and Mail*, among others. She has a master of fine arts in creative nonfiction from the University of King's College in Halifax, Nova Scotia, a postgraduate journalism degree from Ryerson University and a bachelor of arts from the University of Toronto. Erin lives with her family in Toronto.

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